In breaking news today, the <u>Vergara v. California</u> lawsuit brought by wealthy corporate special interests looking to eradicate educators' professional and due process rights has ended at the California Supreme Court. The justices today refused to review the April <u>unanimous state appellate court's decision</u> that ruled all the laws constitutional, criticized the lawsuit and overturned a lower Superior Court decision.

In today's <u>CTA statement to the media</u>, President Eric Heins reiterated once again that the proponents of this legal attack failed to establish any violation of students' constitutional rights. Read breaking news stories in the <u>Los Angeles Times</u>, <u>Sacramento Bee</u> and <u>San Francisco Chronicle</u>. The justices' decision today is a vindication of what educators, school administrators, civil rights groups, legal scholars and other experts have been saying about the flaws in the *Vergara* lawsuit.

"This is a good day for students and educators as the Supreme Court's decision brings an end to the case brought by wealthy anti-public education millionaires who spent millions of dollars to bypass voters, parents, and the legislature in an attempt to impose their harmful education agenda on local schools," Eric said. "It's time to get back to the real issues facing our public schools and work together to improve student learning and support the art of teaching. Eliminating teachers' ability to stand up for their students and robbing school districts of the tools they need to make sound employment decisions was a well-funded, wrong-headed scheme developed by people with no education expertise."

With the 2014 lawsuit now over at last, educators and students can continue to enjoy the benefits from the vital California statutes that the litigation attempted to undo: those covering due process rights for educators, probationary periods, and the value of using the current experience-based process when school districts must lay off personnel due to revenue shortfalls and underfunding. The strong appeals court decision in April repeatedly affirmed that the current laws do not harm students or prevent school districts from making personnel decisions.

The *Vergara* case was funded and fronted by Silicon Valley multi-millionaire David Welch and corporate attorneys and a public relations firm who worked together to manufacture a misleading group called Students Matter, and to recruit the student plaintiffs.

Read the history of the case, and see how testimony by CTA members made a difference, in the CTA online hub about *Vergara* here.

Join us in sharing the good news on social media <a>@WeAreCTA using <a>#Vergara.

California Teachers Association

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